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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 7, 1978

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COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CIVIL AND
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

13 FEB 1978



The Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has come to my attention that a child from California is being held by a California citizen in Guyana, South America. The child, John Victor Stoen, is the son of Timothy and Grace Stoen, also residents of California. Young John is presently being held by Jim Jones in Guyana in violation of a custody order issued by San Francisco Superior Court granting custody of the boy to his parents.

The parents are presently seeking to enforce their decree through the proper legal channels in Guyana. It is my sincere hope that these proceedings will restore this six year old boy to his parents' care. However, should undue delays arise in the progress of the case, I hope that the United States Ambassador to Guyana will indicate to the Guyanese government my concern for the safe return of the child to his parents.

I would greatly appreciate knowing what action the Department of State intends to take in this matter.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Don Edwards

Member of Congress

cc: Ashley Hewitt, Director
Office of Caribbean Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING-MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

